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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 004815

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Halki Seminary Tops NSC Agenda - Hurriyet
US Adds `TRNC' Bank to Money Laundering List - Hurriyet
US Shortens Visa Processing for Turkish Cypriots - Hurriyet
PKK Web-Site Says the Organization is Isolated - Milliyet
Erdogan Calls Extraordinary Session to Discuss Draft Penal
Code - Sabah
PM Erdogan Phones Putin Prior to Turkey Visit - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

AKP Tries to Complete New Penal Code Before EU Report -
Cumhuriyet
El-Salvador Sends 80 More Troops to Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Israeli Interest in GAP Region Alarms Turkish Officials -
Yeni Safak
Turkish Parliament to Convene to Discuss Penal Code - Yeni
Safak
Court Trials Begin at Guantanamo - Zaman
Assassination Attempt against Two Iraqi Ministers - Zaman

BRIEFING

Ambassador Edelman's Visit to Black Sea Region: Anatolian
News Agency reports that US Ambassador Edelman met with the
Governor and the Mayor of Samsun yesterday. Responding to a
question about PKK activities in Northern Iraq, the
Ambassador said that `the US is very sensitive on the
terrorism issue and that the United States is working
jointly with Turkey in the fight against terrorism. Asked
whether he expected the United States to stage an operation
against the PKK in the near future, the Ambassador said that
the US is cooperating with Turkey in various ways against
the PKK. He added that the US is not expected to stage a
military operation against the PKK soon, but said this did
not mean that a military operation is excluded at some point
in the future. "Radikal" quoted Ambassador Edelman as
saying that `we urged the EU to add the PKK/Kongra-Gel to
their terrorist list.'

US Shortens Visa Process for Turkish Cypriots: "Hurriyet"
reports that the US Embassy in Cyprus released a written
statement saying that the visa procedures will be
streamlined to allow Turkish Cypriots to receive their visas
more quickly.

AKP Government Plans to Amend Penal Code to Meet EU
Requirements: "Hurriyet" reports that the government will
call an extraordinary parliament meeting on September 14 to
pass a new Criminal Code before the release of the EU
commission's enlargement report on October 6. "Hurriyet"
reports that the reform package will include heavier
penalties for honor killings, an end to unauthorized
virginity, changes to abortion regulations, penalties for
sexual harassment in the work place, and stiffening of
penalties for rape.

NSC Meeting: "Hurriyet" reports that the Halki Seminary
issue will be on National Security Council's agenda during
today's meeting. The NSC will discuss various alternatives
for meeting EU requests related to the seminary. The NSC is
also expected to discuss developments in Iraq and steps to
end the economic isolation of northern Cyprus.

Israeli Interest in the GAP Region: "Yeni Safak" reports
that Turkish intelligence and security officials are alarmed
by increased Israeli interest in purchasing land in the
Southeast. An office in the Prime Ministry has reportedly
started an investigation on the potential threat to Turkey's
future posed by the foreign purchase of Turkish real estate.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Iran

"The US is trying to rewrite history"

Serdar Turgut argued in the mass appeal-sensational "Aksam" (8/25): "There is a concealed intention behind the US declaration of war against Iraq. A recent story in "Newsweek" tells about the incredible amount of looting and smuggling of Iraq's historic heritage and antiquities. It has been a 'massacre' of history, and cannot be attributed to the looting that could be expected in such war conditions. We should keep in mind that this area is the source of all monotheistic religions. . The rulers of the global world have decided that now is the time to settle accounts. The religious geography of the world in the 21st century is about to be reorganized. It will not be surprising even if brand new mass religions emerge in this century. . The history of Iraq has now been erased, and it will be recreated mostly with lies. That was the case thousands of years ago, and history is simply repeating itself. Turkey is completely unprepared for all of this, because we failed to comprehend the ongoing historical process in its proper context. . Chaos and anarchy prevail in Iraq, but, given these circumstances, it would be wrong to conclude that the US has failed in the Iraq war. The US wanted to have chaos, and so has created it. But it is now about time to establish a new order out of the chaos."

"Turkey and Iran's Nuclear Threat"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (8/25): "Developments in Iran's nuclear program coincide with improved bilateral relations between Turkey and Iran. However, international concern about the Iranian nuclear program and the possibility that Iran could produce nuclear weapons is also a part of Ankara's agenda. Turkish diplomats and strategists are closely watching developments in this regard. As one MFA official expressed, 'Ankara has noted the Iranian explanation that its nuclear efforts are intended for peaceful use, such as the production of electricity. We are trying to determine if this is the whole truth.' Turkey does not consider Iran's nuclear capability as a direct threat. But if Iran really obtains nuclear weapons, it will turn the balances in the Middle East completely upside-down and constitute a new ground for foreign intervention, including by the United States."

EDELMAN